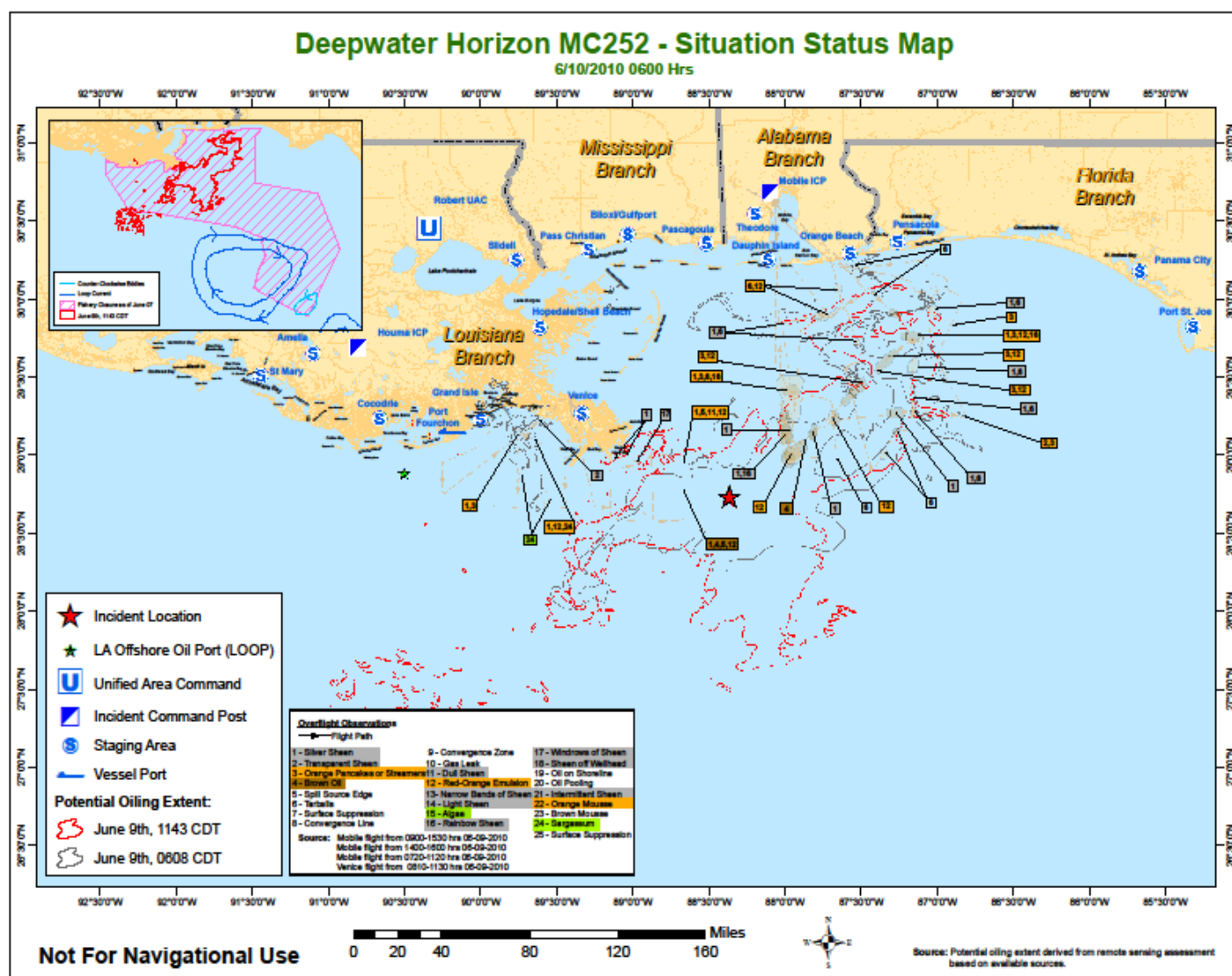


Friday, June 11, 2010



On April 20, 2010, an explosion and subsequent fire occurred on British Petroleum's (BP) offshore drilling rig *Deepwater Horizon*, which had been drilling an exploratory oil well in approximately 5,000 feet of water in the Gulf of Mexico, 52 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana. The platform sank following the fire, with 11 crewmembers presumed dead. Since April 20, the uncompleted well continues to leak oil. This major oil spill poses a significant environmental threat to US Gulf of Mexico coastal communities.



Situation:

The United States Coast Guard (USCG) is the lead Federal agency and Incident Commander for the containment and cleanup response, and is heading up a multistate unified command response of Federal, state, local, volunteer and private entities to combat the spill and its effects. BP engineers have been working over the past five days to optimize the 'top hat' wellhead containment device performance. The collection of oil has steadily increased over the past six days and BP hopes to ramp up the collection rate from 15,000 to 28,000 barrels per day over the next week.

Persistent southwesterly winds last week resulted in northward movement of the slick towards the Mississippi/Alabama barrier islands and westward along the Florida Panhandle. Now, onshore southeasterly winds are forecast to continue through Friday, and models show alongshore currents becoming more westward over the next few days, inhibiting further eastward movement of the oil.

Gulf Coastal regions between Horn Island, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida may continue to experience limited shoreline oiling throughout this forecast period. To the west of the Mississippi delta, any remaining floating oil in this region could come ashore between Timbalier Bay and Southwest Pass.

In the offshore zone, satellite imagery analysis continues to indicate patches of sheen to the southeast of the main slick. Scattered sheens and tar balls have been observed in this region. Satellite imagery of the Florida Strait and Gulf Stream saw no oil anomalies.

NOAA Fisheries Service has closed portions of the central Gulf of Mexico to commercial fishing. Any changes to the closure are announced daily at 12 p.m. Eastern at sero.nmfs.noaa.gov.

State of Georgia Actions:

There is no oil threat to the Georgia coast at this time. All oil spill effects are confined to the Gulf of Mexico. For this spill to affect the Georgia coast, it would have to traverse around the Florida peninsula via the "Loop" current and be picked up by the Gulf Stream. In conference calls with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), advice so far is that it would take some time (10 days or more) should the oil enter the correct currents in the Gulf for oil to make such a transit. In that time period, it would be expected what oil does make it off the Georgia coastal area would be very diluted and weathered, making it unlikely to present a large pollution problem. Additionally, for the oil to make it onshore, weather conditions would have to be just right in that a continuous strong onshore wind would be required to move the oil out of the northward flow of the Gulf Stream.

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), along with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority (GEFA), and other

Federal, state and local partners, are actively monitoring the oil spill and oil slick trajectory forecasts for any identifiable threats to the Georgia coast. GEMA has participated in frequent conference calls with response agencies and is maintaining situational awareness.

The Coast Guard (USCG) has been coordinating with local and state Emergency Management officials reviewing their Area Contingency Plan (designed for maritime hazardous material response) and making initial preparations for any impacts in Georgia. This includes reviewing existing plans, looking at potential requirements for unified incident command, potentially coordinating volunteers, how to manage claims processing, and safety and security issues.

Georgia has the capability to quickly activate a robust Joint Information Center to keep the public, the media and government officials informed of the latest information for disasters and emergencies. This capacity is organized by GEMA and utilizes public information officers and subject experts from across state government, and will be activated if the need arises.

For Further Information:

For the latest information on entities responding to the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill, users of this awareness statement are encouraged to visit the following web sites.

Incident Command: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com>

United States Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov/>

NOAA: <http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/index.php>

United States Department of Energy: http://www.energy.gov/open/oil_spill_updates.htm

Other helpful information:

1-866-557-1401 - Report oiled or injured wildlife.

1-800-440-0858 - Discuss spill related damage claims.

1-866-448-5816 - Report oil on land, or for general Community and Volunteer Information.

1-888-623-0287 - Oil spill health related questions/ Deepwater Horizon Medical Support Line

Suggestion line for BP: (281) 366-5511 or submit idea online:

<http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/clients/2931/319487.pdf>

To submit a technology solution to the EPA: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/techsolution.html>

Volunteer opportunities: <http://www.serve.gov/oilspill.asp>

Vendors wanting information: <http://www.epa.gov/bpspill/vendors.html>